



THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

# MAILBOAT

FEBRUARY 2022

## Obsessed at Age Six

By: Will Biddle

To a small boy in the 1950s, spending a month in the summer on Upper Saranac Lake was the high point of the year, better than Christmas, my birthday, and every other holiday combined. When I was very small, my grandparents had a Cape Cod motor launch, called the Patsy Boat after my mother. The Patsy Boat could hold about a dozen adults, but loaded or not, it was slow, very slow, maybe six knots. By 1950, the Patsy Boat was not only slow, but ornery. Some days it wouldn't start at all, but that was a lot better than the days it started in the Launch House but died on the lake. This had begun happening on my parents' honeymoon in 1940. I know because they took a picture of the inboard towing them home.

In 1950, there were three families using Camp Hasanoanda: the Rheins, the Bissells, and the Biddles. My grandmother Packard, who had her own cabin, usually overlapped with the Rheins or the Bissells. My parents shared the camp with their friends the Spences (no relation to the Dunlap-Spences living on Markham Point). The Spences had two sons the same age as my two brothers and me. To help control this small gang of boys, my parents usually employed a nanny, or, later, an older, more responsible young man.

In 1950, my father built a 7 ft. pram of marine plywood. This pram could be sailed or have a small outboard attached. He purchased a 1¼ horsepower Elgin outboard. On a calm day, four adults could ride in the pram at speeds of considerably less than six knots, probably two or three. I remember, however, it was useful to have around when the Patsy Boat died far from the Launch House.

Next door to us lived Mamie Packard Billings Blagdon, my mother's first cousin, although about twenty years older than my mother. Mamie and Ben also hosted large Packard family gatherings. And they had the niftiest boats. George, Jr., Mamie's younger brother (Rev. Tyler Montgomery's great grandfather) had "The Old Hundred." I don't think it was christened that, but Uncle Pirate, as the gang of children at Hasanoanda called him, referred to it as such, probably because it had 100 horsepower. It was a lovely, though well used, split cockpit runabout, eighteen feet I



The Pram

think. Then Ben, Mamie's second husband, had Nature Girl, a WWII landing craft converted into a small houseboat. Ben spent most of his time tinkering with Nature Girl and answering endless questions from the Hasanoanda gang. Ben also had a Cape Cod Launch, but I don't think he ever used it. It may even have been the old Patsy Boat. But the real pièce de résistance was the Peter Pan, which belonged to Parker Packard, George's younger son. The Peter Pan is a 1938 16 foot, split-cockpit Chris Craft runabout with three two-barrel carburetors, painted red, white, and blue. To add insult to injury, Parker used to moor it between our two camps. Close enough that sometimes I thought of it as our boat.

In the early '50s, the Patsy Boat disappeared, and my grandmother Packard purchased a 13-foot Lyman with a 25 horsepower Johnson. Initially the Lyman was operated from a tiny seat in the stern using a throttle arm. You had to be Hercules to start it by pulling the starter cord. Sometimes it backfired. If you didn't let go of the cord, it could throw you off the back of the boat. My father and Tom Spence loaded the gang into the front seat of the Lyman and took it out for our first spin. When my father gave it full throttle, we all screamed in delight, and my father said, "My gawd, it's a monster." Thus the Lyman was named.

I had never been in a fast boat before, but I had watched Parker take out the Peter Pan. How I envied him. Between the Peter Pan and that first rush of adrenalin in The Monster, I was hooked at the tender age of six. I dreamed that someday I would wake all our neighbors by firing up an inboard and preen my feathers as I

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# President's Letter

Larry Koch

It's February and I am patiently waiting for next summer. I have always figured once we get to February first, we are closer to next summer than last summer. Time to look forward and not back!

Things slow down at the lake in winter but fun activities continue. There is skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing to do. The Saranac Lake Winter Carnival is a February happening and there are competitive events at Lake Placid's sports venues to see. Or you could sit by the fire in your lake house living room and watch the winter Olympics. And there are lots of people on the lake in winter, so yes, the lake is still a special place in February too!

Most important for the association is renewing your membership for 2022. This year, you can now do that at [www.uppersaranac.com](http://www.uppersaranac.com) using a credit card or PayPal or by check. For the past year, we have been talking about the plans for a newly updated USLA website where you can pay your dues via credit card, manage your own profile via a user name and password and sign up for USLA events on line. You have all been very patient as our committee has been working with a challenging project – far more challenging than first envisioned. Well, now *it's here!* The website continues to have news, pictures, webcam and the ability to renew your membership in the old way. Elsewhere in this Mailboat, you will find instructions on just how to log in and become a 2022 member.

Speaking of Websites, the Town of Santa Clara has completely revamped their website for 2022. Several new features that you might notice is the clarity of information related to town meetings, agendas and minutes. You can now enroll in their notification system so that when a new proposal comes out, you will be notified via email with their request for written comments by a posted date. This allows for all USLA members to be involved in town actions whenever relevant. Read the Government Affairs column for more information.

The Cultural Events committee has been working hard this winter. Covid's erratic longevity has made planning events a challenge but they have come up with a few winners this coming summer. Find their update elsewhere in this Mailboat.

We have heard from many members that they are patiently waiting for a renewed, big July 4th wooden boat parade. The parade has never been a USLA run event but a privately organized program with periodic support from USLA. We will rearrange the logistics to provide participants a dry ride. Spectator turnout will be great and we "promise" good weather. If you own a wooden boat and are willing to participate, *we need you!* Please contact me via the USLA website board listing connection or call me real soon.

This winter, COVID, in its latest form has certainly hit the North Country hard. We hope you have been having a healthy, happy winter, no matter where you are. With patience, summer will come soon enough!

Best wishes  
Larry Koch  
President



Judy Meagher found this young moose on her property (June of 2021).  
Will we see more this year?

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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THE USLA MAILBOAT  
Lynne Perry, Editor  
Harry Wirtz, Layout/Design

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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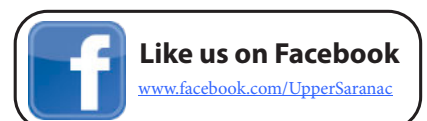
## USLA SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

President, Ron Otten (518-359-7841)

[usla@uppersaranac.com](mailto:usla@uppersaranac.com)

Photo of the mailboat, "Saranac", courtesy of the Adirondack Collection, Saranac Lake Free Library

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## Obsessed at Age Six

*Continued from page 1*



Peter Pan

motored into deeper water where I would take off in a blaze of glory.

Away from Upper Saranac, back on the Main Line of Philadelphia, I struggled in school. Even when I did know an answer, I had a speech impediment so the teacher probably couldn't understand me. Episcopal Academy thought I was retarded and tried to throw me out, but my mother, bless her heart, demanded that before I took the walk of shame, Episcopal had to give me an intelligence test. Since I couldn't read very well in the third grade, the test was administered individually. Evidently I wasn't retarded. Since I was a slow reader, on the standardized tests they used to give us, I had just marked in the little squares randomly. I'm amazed it took Episcopal until the third grade to catch on to me.

During those trying years, it was the Peter Pan and the ride in the Monster that sustained me. I would learn to read, even take speech lessons rather than hide under a sofa, so I could one day have a split-cockpit runabout. Meanwhile my brothers and I cajoled my father to upgrade to a better boat. Always a practical man, he refused. After all he didn't even own Camp Hasanoanda. These finer points were lost to us, at least to me, the youngest.

Not sure if it was the speech lessons or the increased effort on my part, but I struggled less in middle school. In 1960 Grandmother Packard died, I went off to boarding school, where I

would struggle once again, and my mother bought Camp Hasanoanda. Not much movement in upgrading our boat, however, my father did buy a 35 hp Johnson with electric start for the old Lyman. It was a much more user friendly boat, and it could pull a large man on one ski. But my dream did not die.

In 1965, Bud and Lois Brownell operated the Upper Saranac Lake Yacht Club, next to what we know now as Lot 9 of Deerwood. Bud had a 1936 split-cockpit Century, which he had fixed up. If I had been obsessing less about the Peter Pan, Bud's Century corrected that. My brother Packard and I almost convinced my father to buy Bud's Century to replace the now aging Monster, but in the end my father bought a 14 ft. aluminum Crestliner with a 40 hp Johnson. (Ugh!) It was the nail in the coffin as far as my dream was concerned.

Now a senior at Groton School, I was headed for Washington and Lee University. With some money in my pocket, I started searching for a 16 ft. runabout. Century, the last maker of mahogany plank and batten wood boats, rolled their last wood boat off their line in 1966. People who had wood boats weren't selling them in early 1966, so I bought plans from Cleveland Boat Plans, and in March purchased all the wood I would need from Phoenixville Lumber. My dream had become my first large project.

# USLA Website News

Over the past several months, a dedicated team has been working to update the USLA website. The goal — allow members to join or renew membership in USLA while maintaining their profile with current contact information. We invite you to explore the updated website while renewing or joining — [www.uppersaranac.com](http://www.uppersaranac.com).

## Membership Information:

- A membership includes a spouse/partner and dependents 18 or under. Family members 19 and older must have a separate membership.
- Each individual member will use their email address to login.
- To renew membership and pay online by credit card or PayPal you must login.
- Once dues are paid, a member may pay online for family members 19 and older or friends. See “Pay For Another Member” below.
- New members will create a profile, including email address (login ID) and password, prior to paying membership dues.

## To pay 2022 dues online, renew by credit card, PayPal or check:

- Click “Renew your Membership” under the Membership tab.
- Login ID – use your email address provided to USLA in prior years.
- Set your Password – click the “forgot my password” link on the login box and follow prompts to create your password.
- Once you login, visit your Profile page to pay your annual dues by credit card, PayPal or check.

# Third Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

The USLA Scholarship Fund is hosting its Third Annual Summer Golf Tournament at the Saranac Inn Golf and Country Club on July 25, 2022. This tournament supports the annual scholarships that are awarded in honor of Chip Harrison to deserving seniors at both Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake Central Schools. Teams of 4 golfers compete for prizes in men’s, ladies and mixed divisions. There is also an opportunity to be a sponsor for the tournament. Hole sponsorships are \$100. Sponsors will have a sign located on a hole during the tournament and will be recognized in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise. Many lake residents and camps sponsored our last tournament. More information can be obtained by emailing [uslascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:uslascholarships@gmail.com) or by calling 518-332-6329.

- Also please update your profile as needed. Note that the second person of a spouse/partner membership might only have a first name listed. Please fill in any missing information.

## To pay 2022 dues offline:

- If you do not have access to the internet to pay dues through the website, please call the Communications Chair at 518-265-5165 so that USLA can send a member renewal form to you by regular mail.

## To pay 2022 dues for others (including family members 19 + year old):

- Pay for others after your membership is paid by clicking the “Pay For Another Member: tab in the upper right hand corner of the Profile screen.
- Each member 19+ must have a separate membership, hence an email address in USLA files. If their email address is not on file, proceed back to the Membership tab in the home page top title bar and then click “Become a Member” to create a new membership file for each person’s membership. Payment will be completed at the bottom of the new member’s profile screen.

## Membership FAQ:

- There is a link to a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list of information on the membership page to help you with any questions you have.
- Please review the list for detailed information and contact USLA to ask for help.

Third Annual

# Golf Scramble

Saranac Lake & Tupper Lake High School Scholarship Golf Tournament

DATE	COURSE	FEE
July 25, 2022	The Saranac Inn Golf Club	\$80 per player includes lunch, cart, green fees

Pre-registration required • Sponsorships available

Time: 10:30	Registration	
11:30	Lunch	
12:30	Shotgun Start	

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INFORMATION

E-mail for more info: [uslascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:uslascholarships@gmail.com)

Additional Info: All proceeds go to scholarships for local students at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake High Schools

Four person scramble format with prizes to the winning mens, womans and mixed teams

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Sponsored by USLA Scholarship Fund Inc.

# Cultural Affairs News

Sally Ward, Chair

## Summer Events Preview

Cultural Affairs continues to fine tune plans for a memorable summer. The following events have been confirmed.

### Virtual Fishing Derby July 1– 31

The fishing derby enters its third year with adult and youth divisions. Contestants simply record the length of each catch with a measuring device, snap a photo and submit it at the USLA website.

### Outdoor Open Level Yoga Sat. July 23: 9 a.m. Young Life

Open to everyone from prenatal to beginners to advanced - ages 12+ - looking to relax, stretch, breathe and enjoy being outside at our beautiful lake! Embrace the nature that surrounds you to help tap into your inner calm. Certified yoga instructor Ellen Bonheim (zone 7 chair) will lead this 60 minute class.

### Jazz Concert @ Church of the Ascension Sat. Aug 6: 4 p.m.

Join us at the historic 1884 log church originally founded as a chapel for the Saranac Inn. Tap your toes as you're entertained by one of the most popular bands in the area, "A Moment's Notice."



Mingle afterward with old friends and new as you savor wine and cheese.

### Great Camp Eagle Island Tour w/ Box Lunch Wed. Aug 17: 10 a.m.–1:15 p.m..

Travel through the history of Great Camp Eagle Island, from its signature Coulter architecture to life during Morton and Graves times to 70 Girl Scout years to its present. Move from one presentation to another, then enjoy a catered box lunch. Children welcome. Boat transport provided from Gilpin Bay.



Now a nonprofit corporation, Eagle Island's leadership is dedicated to preserving this national historic landmark and offering a unique summer camping experience.

To view the Summer 2022 Camp Schedule, visit [eagleisland.org](http://eagleisland.org)

Look for details and online registration information for all events in the May Mailboat.

## Colorful Denizens in the History of the Lake

### Caroline Bartlett Pioneer Hotelier, Bartlett's Lodge

With husband Virgil, Caroline operated an inn for fifty guests from 1854–1884. The inn was located where the lake flows into the Saranac River on property now owned by the Bartlett Carry Club. Mrs. Bartlett was renowned as a cook and was an accomplished pianist. Certain members of the Club claim they've occasionally heard her singing at night over the roar of the rapids.

### Jules Bache Financier and Philanthropist, 1861-1944.

Bache was born in Germany and emigrated to New York City where he found work in a stock brokerage owned by a relative. He climbed the ladder, eventually assuming control and making it one

of the most successful enterprises in the country. He built Great Camp Wenonah in 1915 on the west shore of the lake where he hosted a variety of well-known guests, from titans of industry to the Ziegfeld Follies Girls. Bache was an art collector who donated his collection including works by Raphael, Titian and Rembrandt to the Metropolitan Art Museum.

### Clarence Petty Wilderness Defender, 1905-2009.

Petty's earliest years were spent on the south end of the lake where his family lived in a shanty. A rugged outdoorsman, he hiked 16 miles to school in Saranac Lake at age 11, paddled over 1300 miles of rivers and streams to map remote areas of the Adirondack park at age 65, and snowshoed 35 miles a day at age 75. His was an ardent voice heard at the state level in support of preserving wilderness. This quote from Petty seems particularly relevant as we navigate the third winter of a pandemic: "If things go bad and everything seems to go wrong, the best place to go is right into remote wilderness. Everything is in balance there."

# How's The Fishing?

By Larry Nashett, Chair, Environmental, USLA

That question is often asked among fisher folks when they encounter one another on the water. The answer can vary from, "Oh... uh... we got a couple" (which probably means, it was awesome), to "The fishin' was good, but the catchin' left something to be desired" (which likely means, we got skunked). The Upper Saranac Lake Association's Angler Diary Program helps clarify what is truly going on with the fishery we have.



Photo: Will Main

Most of the anglers who volunteered to keep diaries in 2021 directed their efforts toward catching bass, but a few spent a little time looking for lake trout, a few sought northern pike and one occasionally targeted panfish, like perch and sunfish.



Photo: Joel Nashett

Cooperators caught 147 smallmouth bass in 2021 while specifically targeting bass, resulting in a catch rate of 0.46 fish/hour. This catch rate was substantially lower than those calculated for 2018, 2019 and 2020. A trio of anglers, who have been part of the program since it began in 2016, recorded an average catch rate of 0.78 smallmouth bass per hour that was approximately 24 percent lower than their combined, average catch rate of 1.03 smallmouth bass per hour over the same three previous years. The good news is the relatively large number of young bass in the 8.0-8.9-inch length interval recorded in 2021. This suggests a strong year class was produced in 2019 that will generate good fishing in future years.

Although smallmouth bass dominated, 80 largemouth bass were boated and measured in the targeted catch. A new angler cooperator who joined the program in 2021 accounted for 46 of the 80 largemouth bass tallied last year. Excluding the unmeasured fish, approximately 0.25 largemouth bass were caught per angler-hour in 2021. This largemouth catch rate was higher than the 0.17 fish per angler-hour calculated for both 2019 and 2020.

Angler-volunteers also reported catches of two lake trout and three northern pike in 2021.

Most yellow perch reported are part of the "by-catch" taken while fishing for other species. Downward trends in size and number are evident.

In my opinion the unauthorized introduction of white perch in the lake's fish community has caused these changes. White



Photo: Will Main

perch are here to stay, so anglers may as well enjoy their presence. They're both easy and fun to catch, and they're quite tasty. The complete 2021 Angler Diary Report is available online at [https://uppersaranac.com/index.php?section=fishing\\_diary](https://uppersaranac.com/index.php?section=fishing_diary).

If asked, "how's the fishing?," as Paul Harvey often said, "Now you know the rest of the story".

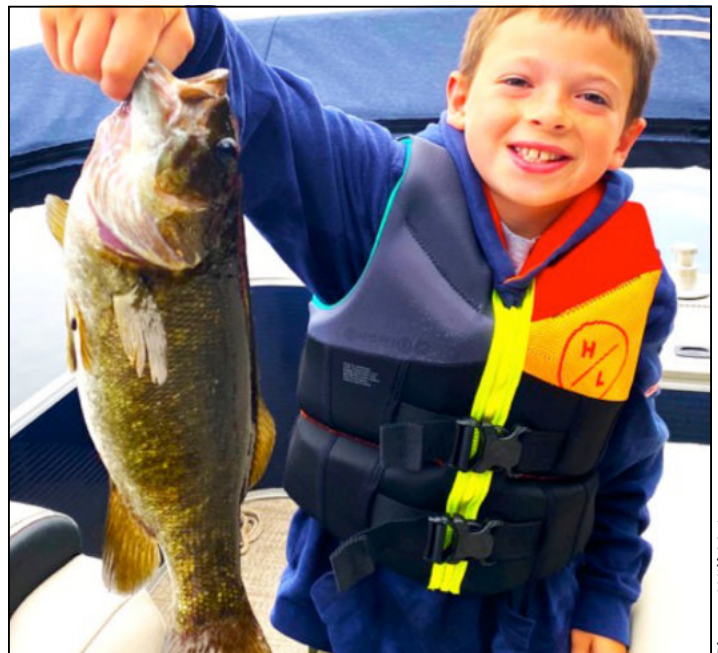


Photo: Will Main

Please contact Larry Nashett at [lnashett@roadrunner.com](mailto:lnashett@roadrunner.com) if you'd like to become an Upper Saranac Lake angler diary cooperator.

# Eagle Island Camp Update

Karin Rutledge, CoPresident, Eagle Island Board of Directors

After successful Day Camp, Overnight Camp, Family Camp, and Women's Weekend programs throughout the summer in 2021, Eagle Island Camp (EIC) is ready to welcome more campers back to the island with a full slate of programming! In addition to one week of All-Gender **Day Camp for young people ages 7 to 11**, we are planning four weeks of **Girls' Overnight Camp for ages 9 to 15!** We'll also have two sessions of Family Camp, and two August Women's Weekends. All programs allow campers and participants to experience the natural beauty of the island and the rich traditions of the camp, while making new friends, learning new skills, and having fun. Most importantly, youth campers will be able to spend time outdoors, unplug from electronic screens, and try new things! All youth camp weeks will once again include swim lessons, kayaking, canoeing, paddling, team-building, arts & crafts, and nature exploration. Sailing will also be available for some programs. Visit [eagleisland.org](http://eagleisland.org) for more details.



Eagle Island also has unique employment opportunities available. We are looking for enthusiastic candidates with outdoor, food service, maintenance, and water sport interests for Camp



Photo: Mark Kurtz

Counselors, Kitchen Manager, Kitchen Assistants, Waterfront Lifeguards/Swim Instructors, Boat Drivers, and Property Managers. Summer staff must be over 18 by mid-June and interested in spending a summer outdoors on our beautiful private island, helping the next generation of Upper Saranac Lake adventurers learn and have fun! Experience working with kids is desirable, and we provide training, including lifeguard certification. Staff will gain resume-building life skills to serve them well in any future endeavor, through living and working together, and supporting the needs of our diverse camper population. Visit [eagleisland.org/jobs](http://eagleisland.org/jobs) for more details.

In addition, EIC will host two Open Island Days in August, so if you have never visited the island, please plan to come over! Transportation from Gilpin Bay to the island will be provided. To learn more about on-island events, please visit [eagleisland.org/events](http://eagleisland.org/events).

## Buz Graves: One of the Greatest Friends of Eagle Island



On September 25, 2021, the Eagle Island Camp community lost a true friend and supporter. Henry Dickson Graves, Jr., 77, known as "Buz," passed away peacefully at his home in Saranac Lake.

Buz's family connection to Eagle Island goes back to his great-grandparents, Henry Graves, Jr. and Florence Graves, who gifted the island and its contents to a New Jersey Girl Scout Council in 1937. He reconnected with and joined the Friends of Eagle Island in 2010. Buz was integral in the effort to save Eagle Island, and served on its Board of Directors from 2012 to 2020. Just weeks before he passed, Buz was delighted to see pictures of this past summer's campers and hear their stories, and to know that, as his grandparents' legacy intended, Eagle Island will be home to campers for years to come.

In his memory, the Nature Trail at Eagle Island will now be known as the Buz Graves Memorial Nature Trail. Signage will be added in his honor and the trail will be dedicated on our August 27 Open Island Day. Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend.

# Upper Saranac Lake Association

## Treasurer's Report: 2021

REVENUE	APPROVED	2021 ACTUAL	VARIANCE	2022 APPROVED
Dues	25,000.00	25,290.00	290.00	25,000.00
Contributions	5,000.00	8,232.00	3,232.00	5,000.00
Other *		1,500.00	1,500.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>35,022.00</b>	<b>5,022.00</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Executive	6,687.20	5,326.44	-1,360.76	6,919.20
Communications	10,600.00	11,800.89	1,200.89	7,200.00
Cultural Affairs	2,000.00	1,250.49	-749.51	2,500.00
Environmental	800.00	230.05	-569.95	800.00
Government Affairs	1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00	1,500.00
Membership	4,911.00	2,640.50	-2,270.50	5,401.00
Safety	750.00	200.00	-550.00	4,550.00
Zone Chairs	3,250.00	1,265.03	-1,984.97	3,250.00
Other	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,998.20</b>	<b>23,713.40</b>	<b>-7,284.80</b>	<b>32,120.20</b>
<b>Beginning Balance 1/01/2021</b>		<b>45,652.12</b>		
<b>Ending Balance 12/31/2021</b>		<b>56,960.72</b>		

\* Payoff of loan to USLA store

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Jay Kapolka, Treasurer, USLA, Inc.

## USLA Store

Ron Otten

USLA Store merchandise is currently available online and can be delivered to your home. Limited quantities of lake related merchandise will be available for order from the Village Mercantile in Saranac Lake. Items can be purchased online by going to the Upper Saranac Lake Association website and using the "Store" tab which will direct you to the Village Mercantile website. You can also go directly to the Village Mercantile website, <https://villagemerc.com>, click on the "Shop" tab and then USLA Scholarship Fund. Two of the newer items available in the store are shown in the adjacent photos.



You can also purchase merchandise from the USLA Store at the Summer Upper Saranac Lake Association meetings. All proceeds from your purchases will go to provide scholarships to seniors at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake Central Schools.





# Upper Saranac Lake Association

## Government Affairs

Larry Koch

The Government Affairs Committee has been fairly quiet over the last several months. We are patiently waiting for next steps in several activities. Maybe winter just provides a lull in actions, though organizations continue planning for spring activities. Let review a few actions from last year and see where they are now:

1. **Fish Creek Campground:** We understand the DEC plans for the campground have been approved by the APA with few modifications. Once those plans are all approved, they will eventually need a budget to pay for them. It was recently announced that NY State is awash in cash from taxes in a better than expected economy so who knows if the DEC plans get budgeted this year. Don't be surprised if it takes a couple of years to complete all the construction in the plan. Patience!
2. **Town of Santa Clara Commercial Zoning Code and Moratorium:** The town passed the new Commercial Zoning Code into law in December. The Moratorium ended when the Code was passed. Nothing new has taken place since though we expect new developments in this front soon. Patience!
3. **Deerwood Subdivision Lot 9:** A lake front owners group has filed suit against the APA and the owner of Lot 9 relevant to the owner's plans and APA approval of those plans which negate the APA's original 1980's plans for the Deerwood estate subdivision. The main issue is the owner's plan to install a septic system within 100 feet of a wetland tributary to the lake which is totally contrary to the APA 1980's requirement for the lot. At the first hearing in the fall, the judge asked the APA for its analysis of lot 9 relevant to the newly planned septic system. Having none, the APA was told to get one by the judge who is still waiting three months

later. In the meantime, there is a hold on most development of the lot. Patience!

4. **Town of Santa Clara Short Term Rental Law:** The town has been working on a Short Term Rental law for well over a year. The first draft of that law was released in late January with a request for comment to the town by February 9. USLA posted that information on our website on January 29 with an email blast out to members the same day. By the time you read this, the first town meeting will have taken place so stay tuned for more information through the town and USLA websites. This subject needed to be addressed at some level based on several events around the lake over the last couple of years. The Government Affairs Committee will continue to monitor this town action and react when appropriate. We will be less patient here.

At last November's election, the town had three open seats on the five seat town council. There were two candidates leaving an open seat. The town wanted to fill the seat – the second half of a two year term with a volunteer approved by the rest of the town council. We are pleased to say that USLA member and full time resident Tom Meldrim has kindly volunteered to fill the fifth seat for 2022. Tom lives in Saranac Inn and is a retired lawyer and NY judge. Please thank Tom for his service to the Town of Santa Clara this summer.

Lastly, it was noted that just under 100 people voted in the Town of Santa Clara last November. Any individual member voting in Santa Clara represents a much larger percentage of the vote than just about any other town or city they live in during the winter. Consider voting in Santa Clara next time, especially if you are already a New York State resident.



Postcard courtesy of Norm Howard

# Upper Saranac Foundation

*It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality.*



## Upper Saranac Foundation: It still is, and always will be, about water quality

The Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) greatly appreciates the support we receive from the Upper Saranac Lake (USL) community and beyond to continue our mission to preserve and protect the natural beauties, environmental quality, and recreational enjoyment of the USL watershed. Contributions made to USF are critical for our day-to-day operations.

Reflecting back on some of what was accomplished in our watershed, here are just a few of our 2021 highlights:

- Received over \$50,000 in grant funding for the protection of the watershed
- Continued the reduction aquatic invasive species (AIS) on Upper Saranac Lake to record low levels — from 18 tons in 2004 to a rare plant in 2021, and to levels not seen since its discovery in the early 1990's
- Continued the reduction of AIS in Fish Creek Campground – from 9.5 tons in 2016 to 213 pounds in 2021
- Prevented over 3,000 pounds of AIS from floating downstream past the Fish Creek containment booms
- Decreased AIS found on boats being taken out of the water at Fish Creek campground by 92% over the last five years through harvesting efforts in and around the campground launch
- Harvested 7,038 pounds of AIS from Follensby Clear Pond, totaling 13,638 pounds over the past two years
- Harvested 7,000 pounds of AIS from Fish Creek tributary, upstream of the campground
- Collected input from nearly 300 individuals to guide and develop a watershed management plan
- Developed a draft watershed management plan that includes seven primary goals and 58 action items
- USL and Fish Creek Campground Watershed Stewards inspected 3,936 boats and educated nearly 8,000 visitors about AIS
- Watershed Stewards performed 186 boat decontaminations at USF's AIS decontamination station on USL
- Watershed Stewards intercepted 15 confirmed AIS on boats and trailers
- Expanded the pollinator gardens at the USL Boat launch
- 23 volunteers participated in the annual Asian Clam survey, taking nearly 700 sediment samples assuring that these invasive mollusks are not present in USL
- Maintained the lake's water levels to a fluctuation of less than 6 inches throughout the summer
- Actively pursued state funding through grants for the improvement of the Bartlett Carry Dam

To learn more about the Upper Saranac Foundation, visit our web page at [usfoundation.net](http://usfoundation.net).

### IN MEMORIAM

Martha Leitner  
December 2021

Martha Leitner passed away after a hard-fought battle with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. She was a 37-year summer resident of the Bartlett Carry Club, presiding as its President for five years. Martha developed a passion for the Adirondacks after serving in the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics. The Adirondacks became her spiritual place. She raised three daughters in New York City and on the Lake, and found the time and grit to become a 46er even as her Alzheimer's condition emerged. She is survived by her husband, Paul, their daughters and husbands and one grandson.

## Membership Committee

Dean Butts, Chair

USLA ended 2021 with 551 paid members, very close to our goal of 556. Thank you to our paid members for their support of USLA.

We are now ready to accept Early Bird membership renewals for 2022. Please refer to the "USLA Website News" article on page 4 of this issue of Mailboat for instructions. On the USLA website [www.upper saranac.com](http://www.upper saranac.com) follow the directions to renew your membership or add a new membership. Update your profile and remember to click on "submit" when you have completed your information.

Thank you

# Zone 8 Party 2021

Nancy Cohen, Zone Chair



With the threat of Covid 19 lurking in the background last summer, it seemed doubtful that we would have a zone 8 get-together. In the end, we decided to take a chance that the weather might cooperate and allow us to party outside. On August 7 the weather was perfect, and 63 zone 8 members, new

arrivals, and guests gathered together for hors d'oeuvres and drinks at Cohen's camp on Bartlett Carry Road. It was wonderful to see everyone after a year of little socialization. The photo shows the last party holdouts!

## USLA Calendar 2022

<b>July 1-31</b>	Virtual Fishing Derby
<b>July 4</b>	Wooden Boat Parade
<b>July 9</b>	USLA Member Meeting
<b>July 23</b>	Outdoor Open Level Yoga
<b>July 25</b>	Golf Scramble to benefit USLA Scholarship
<b>August 6</b>	Jazz Concert
<b>August 13</b>	USLA Annual Membership Meeting
<b>August 17</b>	Great Camp Eagle Island Tour

*Details for all events will be included in the May Mailboat*

THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

## MAILBOAT

FEBRUARY 2022

Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 892  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983



# Celebrating USLA Volunteers

Elizabeth (Liz) Evans, Website Administrator



*“Being relatively new to the lake, I was lucky to meet some USLA neighbors on the Bartlett Carry Road. I’d been enjoying the website already and heard about a big project underway to make the site even better. With a few tech skills up my sleeves, I volunteered to help out! The collaboration has been a great way to get more connected with the lake. Especially during the pandemic, it’s been fun to set up an online hub for the fishing derby and photo contest. I grew up in the west and have always been drawn to the northern woods. This is the first chance I’ve had in life to spend a lot of time by a big freshwater lake. There is so much to love here, especially the different moods of the mountains, water and sky.”*

**Note:** Liz is instrumental in streamlining the website and helping to develop the online membership updates. We are fortunate to have many people volunteering for USLA in various capacities. If you have special interests and/or skills that you would like to share with USLA please email me at [lgper2@gmail.com](mailto:lgper2@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

Lynne Perry, Communications Chair